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3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427				
EXAMINER				
CHANG, VICTOR S				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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NOTE

1. Applicants argue at Remarks page 3 that

“simply because one material that can be used a release agent can also be modified with a tackifier to form a friction enhancing agent does not mean that every material that can be used as a release agent can be modified with a tackifier to form a friction enhancing agent.”

However, it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that selecting a suitable tackifier improves the adhesiveness of a base material, and an increased level of adhesiveness inherently effects the surface friction property of the material to a greater level up to the point the material becomes fully adhesive to prevent friction completely. Applicants' argument ignore the skill of an ordinary skill in the art and unpersuasive.

Applicants argue at page 3 that

“the proposed substitution is not “replacing the base copolymer of the release layer,” it is replacing the base polymer of the separate and distinct friction enhancing agent located on the opposite side of the substrate from the release layer.”

However, the claim language does not exclude the multilayer structured release liner of Johnson '924.

Applicants further argue that

“all that can be concluded from Johnson '924 is that “ethylene/acrylic acid mixtures containing tackifiers” are illustrative friction enhancing agents. The Patent Office has provided no support for the assertion that the tackifier alone provides some “surface property modifying affect.” Nor has the Patent Office provided any basis for concluding that the tackifier alone is a “friction enhancing agent” that can be used independent of ethylene/acrylic acid mixtures to provide a friction enhancing agent.”

However, for the same reasons set forth above, the examiner maintains that since ethylene vinyl acetate is known alternative for forming a release layer, and selecting a suitable tackifier for

Art Unit: 1794

ethylene vinyl acetate is well within the skill of an ordinary skill of adhesive material, applicants' argument is unpersuasive.